MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

March 2023 – The March MNS meeting will be held Thursday, March 16, at 6 PM in the Mayfair Mall Community Room. Veteran member Tom Casper will give a program on numismatic play money and show and tell will emphasize St. Patrick's Day items.

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	James Kubley	**Treasurer:**	Chris Kantak
Sgt. at Arms:	Dave Herrewig	**Trustee '22-'24:**	Jordan Heller
Trustee '23-'25:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '21-'23:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Justin Perrault	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are now held from 6 to 8 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.

March Coin of the Month: For March we have a 1958-D President Roosevelt silver dime, MS64 full bands, certified by PCGS. This item is worth at least $25 for the certification, which will be the starting bid.

March 2023 MNS President's Message

Unfortunately you can't control the weather, and this year's Wisconsin winter has been quite unpredictable. As a result of the heavy, wet snowfall on February 16th it was best that we cancelled the meeting. Hopefully no one made the trek to the meeting room only to discover an empty room. I have a general list of e-mail contacts for most members, but it would be a great idea to update this and ensure it is accurate. Please provide me with your e-mail address if you know that I don't have it. That way I can get a message out in case of a last minute meeting cancellation. It doesn't happen often, but we were lucky enough to experience the big storm on our meeting night. Hopefully that will be the last of it and spring will come early this year.

A few modifications have been made to our meeting calendar of events. This month Tom Casper will talk on the topic of numismatic play money. Then at the April meeting I invite everyone to bring a non-numismatic item you are fond of for show and tell. We are also right on the heels of the Central States show in Schaumburg, so hopefully you can bring your top purchase to the May meeting, which also happens to be the night of our spring auction.

Our March meeting is the day before St. Patrick's Day. I welcome anyone to bring in something numismatically related to the holiday for show and tell. If no one volunteers for refreshments I cannot promise green beer, but I will see if some kind of light snacks can be procured.

Weather permitting, I hope to see you soon at the meeting on March 16th!

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

Armenian Medals of St. Nerses the Grace-Filled

50 mm silver or silver-plated medal (55.82 grams) **25 mm bronze medal (9.10 grams)**

The year 2023 marks the 850th year of the passing of St. Nerses Shnorhali (the Grace-Filled), one of the most prominent Armenian church leaders of the Middle Ages. Nerses was a writer, poet, ecumenical activist, and diplomat who worked tirelessly during his lifetime to reconcile the Armenian Apostolic Church with the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. His hymns and prayers are still chanted today during Armenian church services. He is recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Fifty years ago (in 1973, the 800th anniversary) the Vatican issued two very attractive limited edition medals in his honor, designed by noted Italian medalist Constantino Affer (1906-1987) of Lorioli Fratelli in Milan. --LAS

MN$ 2023

Schedule

Monthly meetings for the calendar year will proceed as scheduled. Due to changes at Mayfair Mall, our meetings will run from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 19:	General Business/Show & Tell
Feb 16:	CANCELLED-SNOW
March 16:	Tom C: Play Money Presentation
April 20:	Show & Tell-Non Numismatic
May 18:	Spring Auction
June 15:	Andy Kimmel Presentation
July 20:	General Business/Show & Tell
Aug 17:	General Business/Show & Tell
Sept 21:	Numismatic Trivia Game
Oct 19:	Autumn Auction
Nov 16:	Raffle Prize Drawing
Dec 21:	Christmas Party/Bingo/Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2023 are $10. Please pay Treasurer Chris K. at the next meeting, or they can be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886.** Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, and helpers to work at events. MNS will also reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

2023 Numismatic Events

March 12:	Waukesha Coin Club Show New Berlin Ale House, 9-4 PM
April 2:	Appleton NOW Show Hilton Paper Valley Hotel 333 W. College Ave, 9-4 PM
April 22:	Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic during SS Coin Show
April 24-30:	CSNS Convention Schaumburg, IL
Aug 8-12:	ANA World's Fair of Money David Lawrence Convention Center Pittsburgh, PA
Aug 13:	Beaver Dam Coin Show American Legion 300 Beichl Ave., 9-3 PM
Nov 12:	MNS Coin Show, 9-4 PM Sheraton Hotel Brookfield

Refreshment Schedule

Jan 19:	Justin P.
Feb 16:	CANCELLED
March 16:	OPEN
April 20:	Dave Hunsicker
May 18:	OPEN
June 15:	OPEN
July 20:	OPEN
Aug 17:	Justin P.
Sept 21:	OPEN
Oct 19:	OPEN
Nov 16:	OPEN
Dec 21:	Christmas Party

ICONIC MILWAUKEE COIN STORE CLOSES ITS DOORS

by Tom Casper

After thirty-five years of business, Milwaukee coin store owners, Russ & Ken Konig are riding into the sunset. They are almost the longest operating coin store that Milwaukee has ever had.

Russ, who has been in the coin business over fifty years began working in the 1960's with Hubert Polzer at 4716 W. Center St. in Milwaukee. Russ then went out on his own as Russ's Coins. It was in 1987 that Russ and his son Ken formed the company of Greater Milwaukee Coin & Jewelry Exchange. They were initially located in the Milwaukee suburb of Greenfield. In 1992 they moved to their present location of 4040 N. Calhoun Rd. in Brookfield. They continued to expand and opened a second store in 1999 at 615 N. Barstow St. in Waukesha. Ken assumed responsibility for operating this store.

Both are long-time members of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society and have continually supported our local club. Russ was a regular attendee and always had a table at our club sponsored coin show. They are members of all the major coin organizations and the local clubs-Waukesha Coin Club and South Shore Coin Club. They never missed taking tables at the country's major coin shows.

Ken started collecting coins at a young age and immediately began assisting Russ in the coin business. Greater Milwaukee Coin has provided an invaluable service to MNS members and Milwaukee area collectors. They certainly deserve their well-earned retirement and we wish them well. Russ and Ken said they appreciate the business over the years both at the stores and coin shows.

The good news is the Brookfield location will open as Greater Milwaukee Coin operated by Dubuque, Iowa dealer, Dale Winter. Russ and Ken have dealt with Dale over the years and felt he was a good fit for the store.

My Adventure with Ron Krauss at WTKM

By Dave Hunsicker

Back in 1999 I contacted the local Hartford WTKM radio station talk show and asked if I could come to talk on their community calendar program to promote the West Bend Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club. I would be able to answer any listener questions about collectable coins or stamps. My one time radio debut was well received and the radio asked if I would come back. They asked me to do a one-hour call-in show from ten to eleven once a month in the morning to answer listener questions. As it turned out, I continued with the show for over 15 years.

I would promote the Kettle Moraine Coin and Stamp Club meetings and answer a wide variety of questions about the two hobbies. It seems like everyone has some coins or stamps lying around. Most of the questions were about common items, such as steel cents, wheat cents, and buffalo nickels. Several people had silver dollars and on an occasion a gold piece. People thought the Ike dollar was actually made of silver. One person was excited to have the first issue Delaware state quarter with a 180-degree rotated reverse which was discovered when the quarter was first issued in 1999; however, the variety did not become very valuable. Silver certificates and two dollar bills were also common questions. Many people who called in thought they had a rarity and were disappointed to learn otherwise.

For stamps, many people thought their three-cent stamps were really old. Three cent stamps were issued for many, many years with hundreds of millions printed. Some people were going to take the stamps off old nineteenth century postcards and I recommended not to. In many cases the cards or old envelopes would be worth more if they were left intact. There were some people who insisted they had such and such a date coin or stamp and I would tell them that it did not exist. They would double check but never call back.

The radio station moderator and host was Ron Krauss (shown in the photo). At times we would broadcast from the Washington County Fair ground during county fair week. The studio was above the St. Vincent De Paul store in downtown Hartford across from the Mine Shaft. There were many days when the show was really popular and Ron would ask if I could stay on for an extra hour. Doing the show was a lot of fun and I enjoyed it while it lasted. Unfortunately, Ron passed away in 2017; eventually the station was sold and the program disappeared.

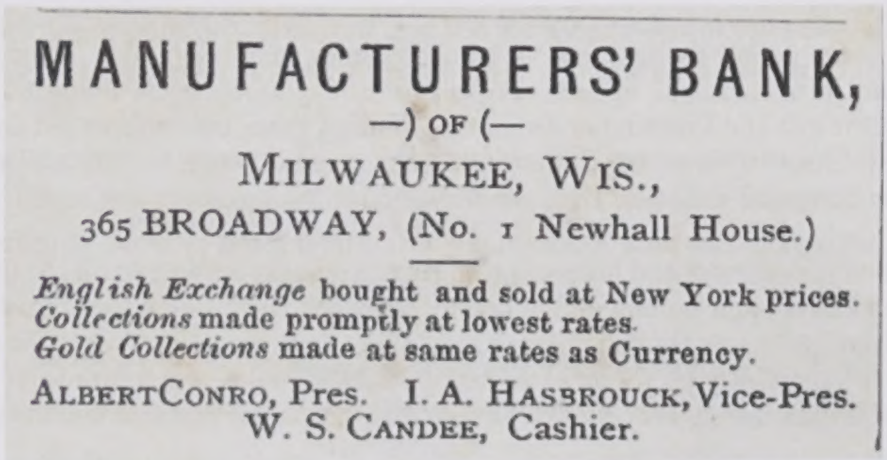
JUST PASSING THROUGH A SHORT-LIVED BANK

By Tom Casper

I recently acquired a Milwaukee bank check from a bank that lasted only 12 years. The check is from the Manufacturers Bank of Milwaukee dated August 15, 1881, a state-chartered bank. It is printed on blue paper with black lettering. In the center is a 2c imprinted revenue stamp, Scott #RN-G1. This is a little-known bank and one I've not heard of previously. It never issued obsolete or national bank notes.

A little research seemed necessary. The bank was incorporated in November 1873 which was the same year that the Panic of 1873 began. It was a financial crisis that triggered an economic depression in North America and Europe that lasted from 1873 to 1877.

The bank address is listed as the northwest corner of Michigan & Broadway. This is the site of the tragic Newhall House fire of January 10, 1883, which took the lives of 70 people. A few months after the fire, the depositors of the bank presented a valuable gold watch to the bank cashier, W.S. Candee, as a mark of their appreciation for the service he rendered them by removing the money from the bank's safe, which was located in the Newhall House at the time of the fire. In the 1877 book, *Milwaukee Illustrated*, a bank ad showed the address of 365 Brodway (sic) (No. 1, Newhall House).


MANUFACTURERS' BANK,
—) OF (—
MILWAUKEE, WIS.,
365 BROADWAY, (No. 1 Newhall House.)
English Exchange bought and sold at New York prices.
Collections made promptly at lowest rates.
Gold Collections made at same rates as Currency.
ALBERT CONRO, Pres. I. A. HASBROUCK, Vice-Pres.
W. S. CANDEE, Cashier.

The bank ceased operations, and an article in the *Milwaukee Daily Journal* newspaper of June 17, 1884 reported as follows:

> **"CLOSING OUT A BANK, THE MANUFACTURERS SHUTS UP SHOP AND NOBODY SEEMS TO CARE.**
> **Owing to the inability to convert our assets so as to meet the immediate demands of depositors, the board has unanimously resolved to suspend payment. The assets of the bank have been put into the hands of a responsible receiver for the purpose of liquidation."**

The payor of the illustrated check H. H. Markham. Henry Harrison Markham (1840-1923) was born in Wilmington, New York, and moved to Wisconsin in 1861. During the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company G, 32nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and was promoted to second Lieutenant Colonel. Markham was part of General William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea in 1864. He was severely wounded in the hip at the Battle of Whippy Swamp on February 3, 1865, and was honorably discharged.

After the war he settled in Milwaukee and studied law, becoming an attorney. He was admitted to the bar in 1867 and practiced law in Milwaukee until 1878. His specialty was gold and silver mining. On May 27, 1876, he married Mary A. Dana in Waukesha, Wisconsin. A display ad in the 1880 Milwaukee City Directory shows Markham as one of four directors of the Manufacturers Bank.

In 1879, he left Milwaukee and moved to Pasadena, California, for health reasons and to advance his political career. Besides investing in various mines, he helped found the Pasadena Public Library and served on the local school board, assuming a position of prominence in the community. He again became a bank director. Aware of his leadership capabilities and his interest in the plight of war veterans, Congress elected him as manager of the National Homes for Disabled Soldiers. He served in that capacity until his death. As a Republican, he was elected as a U.S. representative from California 6th District (1885-1887). He was also elected governor of California and served from 1891-1895.

Manufacturers' Bank

of Milwaukee,

365 Broadway, - Milwaukee.

(No. 1 NEWHALL HOUSE.)

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ALBERT CONRO, President. *I. A. HASBROUCK,* Vice-President. *W. S. CANDEE,* Cashier.

His notoriety came to an end and he suffered the same fate as the Milwaukee bank that he was involved with. The *Los Angeles Herald* carried the following story on April 13, 1907:

> **"GOVERNOR ONCE, H.H. MARKHAM IS DEEP IN DEBT. Debtors' Judgements were obtained on a broken mining deal leaving him penniless. Markham was President of both the American Boy Mining Co. and the American Girl Mining Co. The Boy Co. gave money to the Girl Co. The stockholders of both companies were practically the same. The stockholders of the American Boy Mining Co. held Markham responsible in the sum of $119,000 which he was unable to pay. The court also took his beautiful home in Pasadena to satisfy the judgement. He had owned a forty-acre ranch in Riverside which was sold a few weeks prior to fight an appeal in the Supreme Court."**

A promissory note dated 1901 on the letterhead of the American Girl Gold Mining Co. was signed by him and shows he was president of the company.

He died following a stroke in Pasadena, California, on October 9, 1923, at the age of 82 years. It appears that many of the mining companies during this time went bust. A number of mining stock certificates in my collection have never been redeemed indicating the investors lost their entire investment.